

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER  
LT. GOVERNOR

August 7, 2006

Secretary Mike Johanns  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

RE: Request for Natural Disaster Declaration for Custer and Powder River Counties

Dear Secretary Johanns:

On August 2, 2006 I received requests from both the Bighorn County Board of Commissioners and Custer County Board of Commissioners to petition the Secretary of Agriculture for a Natural Disaster Declaration for their respective counties. Bighorn and Custer Counties have experienced the following events, which may be ongoing, in the previous 90 days:

Drought  
Fire  
Excessive Heat

These events have negatively impacted the county in the following ways:

Destruction of homes	Springs drying-up
Loss of livestock	Loss of stock reservoir usage
Loss of fences	Critical reductions in range forage

A copy of this letter will be sent to the State Farm Service Agency office so they may begin to compile the necessary damage assessment information. Your prompt review and approval of this request will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger  
Nancy Peterson, Department of Agriculture  
General Randall Mosley, Department of Military Affairs  
Dave Maser, Disaster & Emergency Services  
Randy Johnson, Farm Services Agency  
Jesse Aber, Department of Natural Resource & Conservation